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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi vessel Karim (No. 198/Basrah) was intercepted by a Kuwaiti naval patrol while it was fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters in Khawr Abd Allah on 6 July 1996. It was searched and, when nothing was found on board, the boat and its crew were detained overnight. They were released after the members of the crew were interrogated and questioned about the ships in Khawr Abd Allah and about their reasons for flying the Iraqi flag.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to halting and preventing any repetition of its provocative actions against Iraqi fishing vessels inside Iraqi territorial waters, actions that are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of public international law.

I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the damage this action has caused to its citizens and their property, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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